

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health



Office of the Director

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter serves as an update on the current lead issue in the District of Columbia and the steps taken by the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH).

Recently, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) identified your child's school as one of approximately 29 with elevated levels of lead in the drinking water. Out of an abundance of caution, DOH would like to screen your child's blood for lead. If your child's blood lead level is elevated, DOH will arrange to offer an inspection of your home to identify all lead hazards including lead based paint.

We are taking these steps to safeguard your child from the harmful affects of lead. Please complete and return the enclosed consent form by Tuesday, May 4, 2004. **In order for DOH to screen your child, you must sign the consent form.** Screenings are scheduled to begin next week. Results will be mailed to the residence listed on the consent form eight to ten days after the screening has been completed.

If you would like additional information or have questions and/or concerns relating to lead in our water, please contact the DOH at 202-671-0733 (8:15 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays) or WASA lead hotline at 202-787-2732 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekends). You may also send an e-mail to leadinfo@dchealth.com.

Please know that we will continue to take the necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of our residents. Thank you for working with us to accomplish this goal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Lucey", is positioned above the typed name.

Daniel R. Lucey, M.D., M.P.H.
Interim Chief Medical Officer
District of Columbia Department of Health